What is claimed is:


1.  A personal identification terminal comprising:

a plurality of identification means or a plurality

5    of identification levels that are selectable for use; and

means for selecting one of the plural identification

means or one of the identification levels in accordance

with identification means/level setting information that

is received from a server every time when receiving a

10   request for identification from the server.

2.  A personal identification terminal according to

claim 1, wherein the identification means/level setting

information includes a digital signature or other

information for detecting an alteration thereof.

15       3.  A personal identification terminal according to

claim 1, wherein if the identification means or the

identification level that is designated by the

identification means/level setting information does not

exist, default identification means or identification

20   level is used so as to perform the personal identification.

4.  A personal identification terminal according to

claim 1, wherein used means/level information that

indicates one of the identification means or one of the

identification levels that was used for the real

25   identification is sent to the server in a format that

enables detection of an alteration thereof together with a

result of the identification.

5.  A personal identification terminal according to

claim 4, wherein the format that enables detection of an

30   alteration is based on a network authentication protocol

utilizing a secret key.

6. A personal identification terminal according to
claim 5, wherein different secret keys are used for
different identification means or different identification
5    levels.

7. A personal identification terminal according to
claim 4, wherein the used means/level information is added
to information of the result of the identification, which
is enciphered or provided with a digital signature before
10   being sent to the server .

8. A personal identification terminal according to
claim 4, wherein in the case where identification means
utilizing biometric information is used, a score
indicating a similarity or a hash value of the score is
15   added to the information of the result of the
identification.

9. A personal identification terminal according to
claim 4, further comprising a next identification means
decision portion for deciding identification means
20   utilizing biometric information that should be used next
in accordance with a score that indicates a similarity
when the identification was performed using identification
means utilizing biometric information.

10. A personal identification terminal according to
25   claim 9, wherein if the score that indicates a similarity
when the identification was performed using identification
means utilizing biometric information is lower than a
predetermined minimum level, the process is stopped
without proceeding to the next identification process.

30       11. A personal identification terminal according to

claim 4, wherein if the score that indicates a similarity
when the identification was performed using identification
means utilizing biometric information shows complete
identity, the result of the identification is regarded as
5    being false.

12.  A personal identification terminal according to
claim 1, wherein a combination of an IC card and an IC
card reader/writer constitutes the terminal.

13.  A server that is connected to a personal
10   identification terminal, comprising:

a score log storing portion for storing a log of a
score or a hash value of the score that was added to
information of a result of identification received from
the personal identification terminal; and

15       a processing portion for deciding that
identification is failed when the same score value
continues several times in accordance with the log of the
score or the hash value of the score read out of the score
log storing portion despite the result of the
20   identification received from the personal identification
terminal.

14.  A method for personal identification comprising
the steps of:

sending identification means/level setting
25   information together with a request for identification
from a server to a personal identification terminal
including a plurality of identification means or a
plurality of identification levels that are selectable for
use;

30       selecting one of the plural identification means or

one of the identification levels by the personal
identification terminal in accordance with the
identification means/level setting information that is
received from the server; and

5        sending used means/level information that indicates
one of the identification means or one of the
identification levels that was used for the real
identification from the personal identification terminal
to the server in a format that enables detection of an
10   alteration thereof together with a result of the
identification.

15.  A method according to claim 14, further
comprising the steps of:

sending identification terminal information
15   including a location and a current time from the personal
identification terminal to the server before sending the
request for identification and the identification
means/level setting information from the server to the
personal identification terminal; and

20       changing the identification means/level setting
information to be sent to the personal identification
terminal by a processing portion of the server in
accordance with the identification terminal information
that was received from the personal identification
25   terminal.

16.  A method according to claim 14, further
comprising the step of sending information for designating
the number of usable times of a secret key together with
the request for identification and the identification
30   means/level setting information from the server to the

personal identification terminal so as to limit the number of times a user can use the secret key when the result of the identification is OK.

17. A computer program that is installed in a personal identification terminal having a plurality of identification means or a plurality of identification levels that are selectable for use, the computer program makes a processor of the personal identification terminal execute the process comprising the steps of:

selecting one of the plural identification means or one of the identification levels in accordance with identification means/level setting information that is received from a server every time when receiving a request for identification from the server; and

sending used means/level information that indicates one of the identification means or one of the identification levels that was used for the real identification to the server in a format that enables detection of an alteration thereof together with a result of the identification.

18. A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program that is installed in a personal identification terminal having a plurality of identification means or a plurality of identification levels that are selectable for use, the computer program makes a processor of the personal identification terminal execute the process comprising the steps of:

selecting one of the plural identification means or one of the identification levels in accordance with identification means/level setting information that is

received from a server every time when receiving a request
for identification from the server; and

      sending used means/level information that indicates
one of the identification means or one of the

5    identification levels that was used for the real
identification to the server in a format that enables
detection of an alteration thereof together with a result
of the identification.